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OPENING REMARKS

For the Public Hearing on

* * * * *

A PROPOSED MINOR SOURCE SYNTHETIC AIR PERMIT
FOR

TIGER STATE ETHANOL, L. L. C.
ST. JAMES ETHANOL FACILITY

Convent, St. James Parish, Louisiana

Agency Interest Number AI 141086, 2560-00273-00

Activity Tracking Number PER20060001

* * * * *

The Louisiana Department of Environmental
Quality held a Public Hearing and was reported at the St.
James Parish Courthouse, Courtroom A, 5800 Highway 44,
Convent, Louisiana 70727, on Thursday, November 16, 2006,
commencing at 6:15 p.m.

Reported by:
Stephanie Lacoste Rodriguez
Certified Court Reporter

2 tigerst1.txt
2 APPEARANCES:
3 For the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality:
4 MR. ALLEN KIRKPATRICK
5 Hearing Officer
6 MS. SOUMAYA GHOSH
7 Environmental Assistance Division
8 MS. LAURA AMBEAU
9 Environmental Assistance Division
10 For Tiger State Ethanol, LLC:
11 TREVOR THOMPSON
12 Representative
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3 MR. KIRKPATRICK:

4 (Reading document) Good evening.

5 Let the Record reflect that the time is

6 6:15 p.m. My name is Allen

7 Kirkpatrick. I am employed with the

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8 Louisiana Department of Environmental
9 Quality. I will be serving as the
10 hearing officer this evening, Thursday,
11 November 16, 2006.

12 This hearing is scheduled to accept
13 public comments concerning the Proposed
14 Minor source Synthetic Air Permit for
15 Tiger State Ethanol, LLC, St. James
16 Ethanol Facility, Convent, Saint James
17 Parish, Louisiana, Agency Interest No.
18 141086, Permit No. 2560-00273-00 and
19 Activity Tracking No. PER20060001. The
20 site is located adjacent to the east
21 bank of the Mississippi River near
22 river mile 163 in Convent, Saint James
23 Parish.

24 Tiger State Ethanol, LLC, Saint
25 James Ethanol Plant proposes to

5

1 construct and operate a 110 million
2 dollar -- gallon per year fuel-grade
3 ethanol facility, which will be located
4 in Convent, Louisiana. This is the
5 initial application for the facility.
6 The Saint James Ethanol Facility will
7 use the dry milling process for
8 processing grain into ethanol.

9 This permit was processed as an
10 expedited permit in accordance with LAC

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33: I. Chapter 18.

This hearing is not being conducted as a question and answer format. Please remember that the purpose of this public hearing is for DEQ to receive your comments concerning the Proposed Minor Source Synthetic Air Permit.

This hearing is to provide all individuals a chance to be heard regardless of their position on the Proposed Minor Source Synthetic Air Permit.

Courteous behavior is expected of everyone at all times. You may speak

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in support of the permit, in opposition to the permit, or simply to provide additional information. All interested parties will be given a reasonable opportunity to comment, unless testimony is not related to the purpose of the hearing. Your comments will be evaluated and addressed in the Department's written response.

A public notice advertising this public hearing and request for public comment on the Proposed Minor Source Synthetic Air Permit was published in

14 tigerst1.txt
The Advocate of Baton Rouge and The
15 News Examiner of Litcher, Louisiana on
16 October 12, 2006.

17 A copy of the Proposed Minor Source
18 Synthetic Air Permit is available for
19 inspection and review at the LDEQ,
20 Public Records Center, Room 127, 602
21 North 5th Street, Baton Rouge,
22 Louisiana. Viewing hours are 8:00 a.m.
23 to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday,
24 except holidays. The available
25 information can also be accessed

7

1 electronically on the Electronic
2 Document Management System (EDMS) on
3 the DEQ public website at
4 www.deq.louisiana.gov.

5 An additional copy is also
6 available for review at the Saint James
7 Parish Library, Headquarters, 1879 West
8 Main Street, Litcher, Saint James
9 Parish, Louisiana. In addition, copies
10 of the public notice were mailed to
11 individuals who have requested to be
12 placed on the mailing list maintained
13 by the Office of Environmental Services
14 on October 11, 2006.

15 In accordance with Louisiana
16 Administrative Code, Title 33, Part

17 tigerst1.txt
18 III, Section 531, comments received by
19 12:30 p.m., Monday, November 20, 2006,
20 will be considered prior to a final
21 decision. All comments received by
22 12:30 p.m., November 20, 2006, shall be
23 retained by the Department and
24 considered in determining whether to
25 issue or deny the Proposed Minor Source
Synthetic Air Permit for the Tiger

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1 State Ethanol, LLC, St. James Ethanol
2 Facility.

3
4 Written comments on this Proposed Minor
5 Source Synthetic Air Permit may be
6 submitted to Ms. Soumaya Ghosn, LDEQ-
7 OES, Environmental Assistance Division,
8 P.O. Box 4313, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-
9 4313.

10 Under LA Revised Statutes 30:2017,
11 as revised by the Legislature in the
12 2004 session, the Department is
13 required to follow the following order
14 with the provision that the presiding
15 officer may give preference to a public
16 official to speak at any time during
17 the hearing. However, any time limit
18 set for citizen testimony shall apply
19 to public officials.

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20 The Department must provide up to
21 30 minutes to the permit applicant for
22 an introductory presentation.
23 Thereafter, preference for speaking up
24 to one hour is given as follows: For
25 the first hour, to those citizens who

9

1 live within a two-mile radius of the
2 location of the facility; for the
3 second hour, to those citizens who work
4 within a two-mile radius of the
5 location of the facility; and the
6 third hour, to those citizens who live
7 within the parish of the location of
8 the facility. Thereafter, each hour of
9 the hearing shall alternate between
10 those who are in support of the
11 Proposed Minor Source Synthetic Air
12 Permit and those who are opposed to the
13 Proposed Minor Source Synthetic Air
14 Permit.

15 The order of tonight's hearing will
16 be based on the information provided by
17 the speaker on the registration form.
18 Anyone who registered to speak but did
19 not provide the necessary information
20 will be given an opportunity to speak;
21 however, they will be called last in
22 order of registration.

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23 This hearing is being transcribed;
24 therefore, I will ask each speaker to
25 begin by stating for the Record their

10

1 name, address, and any organization he
2 or she may represent.

3 At this time, I would like to ask
4 the permit applicant's representative
5 to come forward and make their
6 introductory presentation.

7 If you would just give us your name
8 and affiliation with the company.

9 MR. THOMPSON:

10 My name is Trevor Thompson, and I'm
11 actually with Excel Group which will be
12 doing the construction part of the
13 project. I also work with Tiger
14 State here -- (inaudible) for Tiger
15 State.

16 MR. KIRKPATRICK:

17 You have a half an hour.

18 MR. THOMPSON:

19 All right. I don't think I need a
20 half an hour. I'll try to keep it
21 brief, actually.

22 Over the last couple of months
23 we've had the opportunity to meet
24 with several different folks here in
25 the community. We covered a lot of

1 things and tried to reach out to those
2 folks and let them know about what we
3 were doing and what our plans were.

4 I'll keep it brief and just say
5 that we're excited about having the
6 opportunity to come and bring this
7 facility over to the area. We want to
8 be, of course, a facility that is
9 environmentally safe. We want to be
10 a community -- also involved in the
11 community and working with all the
12 community leaders, also, to bring jobs
13 to the community and the surrounding
14 areas. There will also be another tax
15 base for the area here.

16 So with that being said, I think
17 everybody's got a lot of different
18 questions. We've got a lot of
19 different things and I don't want to
20 take too much time, but I just want to
21 say we're excited about coming to the
22 area. Thank you.

23 MR. KIRKPATRICK:

24 Thank you very much. I will now
25 begin by allowing all persons who have

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1 signed up to speak five minutes, in
2 which to present their comments.
3 Anyone who needs more than five minutes
4 will be allowed to finish his or her
5 comments after all the registered
6 speakers have had the opportunity to
7 speak.

8 The first to speak will be those
9 citizens who live within a two-mile
10 radius of the location of the facility.
11 The first one we have is Willie Mae
12 Williams. Please come forward.

13 MS. WILLIAMS:

14 My name is Willie Mae Williams and
15 I (inaudible) of the upcoming plan.

16 MR. KIRKPATRICK:

17 What is your address, please?

18 MS. WILLIAMS:

19 My address is 9278 Ester Street,
20 Convent, Louisiana, and I live in the
21 4th District where the plant will be
22 located.

23 I came tonight to say that I am in
24 support of the ethanol plant coming to
25 this area. At first I wasn't, but

13

1 after careful consideration, I changed
2 my mind. We had an opportunity to sit
3 down with Tiger State -- which is

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4 history for us because industry never
5 told us or called us to sit down to the
6 table -- and we discussed the matter.
7 We just hope that they would be a
8 good neighbor to us and they have some
9 of the plans that they plan on doing
10 and we just want to say that we welcome
11 them.

12 I am a member of Concerned Citizens
13 and Youth of La. 18 and 44 and a member
14 of LEJCOC statewide. And we would like
15 them to hold fast to the word they told
16 us of the things that they would do.
17 And we realize that there are other
18 plants in this area that made promises,
19 and we just hope that Tiger State hold
20 on to their word because we are living
21 in a community that needs to be
22 upgraded.

23 There is a lot of things that need
24 to be done everywhere we live, and we
25 hope that Tiger State be an example to

14

1 the other industry in this parish,
2 especially (inaudible). We hope that
3 with them coming in and helping the 4th
4 District, it would be an example to the
5 other plants. Thank you.

6 MR. KIRKPATRICK:
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7 Thank you.

8 All right. The next speaker will
9 be Marsha Lewis Miller. If you can
10 give me your address, also.

11 MS. MILLER:

12 My name is Marsha Lewis Miller. I
13 live at 8280 Pleasant Hill Street. I
14 live within a two-mile radius of the
15 ethanol plant that's coming in.

16 For myself, I'm kind of in the dark
17 about what's going on because I run in
18 and out with work and I get bits and
19 pieces of what's going on. But I'm not
20 one to criticize, condemn, or condone
21 something that I'm not sure about. So
22 I hope that industry that's coming into
23 our neighborhood, you know, will do
24 just what some of the things I heard
25 them promise to the community. And I

15

1 also hope and pray that there's a team
2 effort and, like I said, they have a
3 company that advise us of some of the
4 things that's going on.

5 But I'm one that likes research and
6 I also like to see what's going on,
7 also. And I'm also concerned because
8 -- with health issues, I would like to
9 know that, you know, it's pretty safe

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10 because, like, in the past, you know, I
11 heard so many promises and a lot of
12 promises never been kept.

13 But I hope that everything will
14 turn out, you know, for the betterment
15 of our community.

16 MR. KIRKPATRICK:

17 Thank you. Albertha Hasten -- or
18 Hasten.

19 MS. HASTEN:

20 Good evening.

21 MR. KIRKPATRICK:

22 Good evening. Could you give us
23 your address.

24 MS. HASTEN:

25 My name is Albertha Hasten. I live

16

1 on 32365 Doc Dean Street, White Castle,
2 Louisiana. I am the president of the
3 Louisiana Environmental Justice
4 Community Organization Coalition.

5 I am here today to support the
6 Concerned Citizens and Youth of Highway
7 18 and 44. They are supporting
8 Tiger State Ethanol, and we are a state
9 organization that will be supporting
10 them, too. Thank you.

11 MR. KIRKPATRICK:

12 All right. Blaise Gravois.
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13 MR. GRAVOIS:
14 I don't live within a 2-mile
15 radius.
16 MR. KIRKPATRICK:
17 That's okay.
18 MR. GRAVIS:
19 Blaise Gravois. I live in St.
20 James Parish on the west bank.
21 MR. KIRKPATRICK:
22 What's your address, please?
23 MR. GRAVOIS:
24 13303 Maria Gravois Drive in
25 Vacherie.

sic

1 I'm here on behalf of myself as a
2 citizen, but also as chairman of the
3 River Region Chamber that represents
4 over 275 businesses and 20,000
5 employees in the three-parish region.
6 We're in support of the project and the
7 economic impact that it will have on
8 the St. James Parish; and anything we
9 could do to help Tiger, we would be
10 glad to help.
11 MR. KIRKPATRICK:
12 Thank you. Trevor Thompson.
13 MR. THOMPSON:
14 I already talked.

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MR. KIRKPATRICK:

Oh, that's you? Okay. That is correct. Okay, Paul Aucoin.

MR. AUCOIN:

Good evening, my name is Paul Aucoin; mailing address, 134 Goodwill Plantation Road, Vacherie, Louisiana, speaking tonight on behalf of the St. James Parish Economic Development Board. Thank you for this opportunity to make these comments.

18

As with many new economic development projects, we rely on the DEQ permitting process. If the emissions are within the DEQ permissible amounts and will not adversely affect the health of the citizens of the parish, then we, the Economic Development Board, strongly support the Tiger State, LLC, project, primarily because of potential jobs for the citizens of the parish; it would promote parish growth; it would provide sales tax to help with education, cleaner fuels for our vehicle, and less dependence on foreign countries for our oil.

We look forward to working with the

18 tigerst1.txt
community -- the local community and
19 Tiger State with this project. Thank
20 you.
21 MR. KIRKPATRICK:
22 Thank you very much. All right.
23 Last, but not least is Audrey Temple.
24 MS. TEMPLE:
25 My name is Audrey Temple. My

19

1 address is 8411 Kingview Street, St.
2 James, Louisiana. I don't live in a
3 two-mile radius, but I'm a resident of
4 District 5.
5 I'm in full support of Tiger State
6 Ethanol, and I'm here to support the
7 community, also. And also the impact
8 it will have on the parish as a whole.
9 Thank you.
10 MR. KIRKPATRICK:
11 Thank you. Is there anyone else
12 who would like to speak? Okay. If
13 there --
14 Let's see. We need to keep this
15 open until 7:00, correct? So I need to
16 wait and make the final comments at
17 7:00?
18 MS. GHOSN:
19 You can close the Record and come
20 back if somebody wants to talk, or you

21 tigerst1.txt
can keep the Record open.
22 MR. KIRKPATRICK:
23 Okay. Are there any other
24 comments? Okay.
25 I would like to remind you that the

20

1 comment period for this Proposed Minor
2 Source Synthetic Air Permit for the
3 Tiger State Ethanol, LLC, St. James
4 Ethanol Facility, ends at 12:30 p.m.,
5 Monday, November 20, 2006.
6 If there are no other comments, I'd
7 like to thank you for your attention
8 and participation in this hearing. Let
9 the Record reflect that the time is
10 6:35 p.m. This hearing is closed,
11 however it will remain open until 7:00
12 just in case some other people show up
13 a little bit late and we can re-open
14 the Record for comments. Thank you.

(A recess was taken at this point.)

16 MR. KIRKPATRICK:
17 Okay. I'd like to re-open the
18 hearing. We have Andrew Tramonte and
19 Mrs. Tramonte.
20 Please give your name and address
21 for the Record.
22 MR. TRAMONTE:
23 My name is Andrew A. Tramonte. I

24 tigerst1.txt
live at 2172 Jefferson Highway. That's
25 in Litcher, Louisiana 70071. I've been

21

1 here 26 years in St. James Parish.
2 And the reason why I'm here today
3 is because there's always talk about
4 something new coming in this parish:
5 new job openings; new this; new that.
6 When they talked about the airport,
7 everybody was excited about the new
8 jobs and then it never came. Now,
9 Shintech -- everybody was excited and a
10 few people were disappointed. It never
11 came.
12 My question -- well, not question.
13 My opinion and my comment would be I
14 think it would be a great thing for
15 this parish: jobs, economy-wise. DEQ
16 does a great job with controlling
17 hazardous chemicals and I have a friend
18 that's working -- Anyway, the point
19 is that I think it would be a great
20 idea -- the job openings, and it would
21 get the economy flowing a little
22 better. It would get some of the
23 people who have skills like
24 millwrights, pipefitters, welders
25 off the streets and put them in the

1 plant.

2 And basically, that's what my
3 topic views was I wanted to get
4 out there -- probably the same thing
5 that everybody else wants: happy about
6 the jobs -- openings and scared for the
7 chemicals.

8 Mosai co (phonetic) recently just
9 had a big spill; scared the whole
10 parish. It just -- It's a big gamble
11 having a chemical plant around. It's
12 scary, but then it's convenient all at
13 the same time. I just hope it works
14 out and I'll be a (inaudible).

15 So that's all I have to say.

16 MR. KIRKPATRICK:

17 Thank you very much.

18 Are there any others that would
19 like to speak? Going once; going
20 twice; three times.

21 Let's see, the time now is 7:02
22 p.m. and we'll -- I'll close this
23 meeting unless there's any other
24 comments.

25 Okay, this meeting is adjourned.

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2 Thank you.
3 (Whereupon the public hearing was concluded at
4 7:02 p.m.)
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I, Stephanie Lacoste Rodriguez,
Certified Court Reporter, in and for the State
of Louisiana, the officer, as defined in Rule
28 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure
and/or Article 1434 (b) of the Louisiana Code
of Civil Procedure, before whom this sworn
testimony was taken, do hereby state on the
Record:

That due to the interaction in the
spontaneous discourse of this proceeding,
dashes (--) have been used to indicate pauses,
changes in thought, and/or talkovers; that same
is the proper method for a Court Reporter's
transcription of proceeding, and that the
dashes (--) do not indicate that words or
phrases have been left out of this transcript;

That any words and/or names which could
not be verified through reference material have
been denoted with the phrase "(phonetic)."

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Stephanie L. Rodriguez, CCR
Certified Court Reporter
Louisiana License #24035

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REPORTER' S CERTI F I C A T E

I, Stephanie Lacoste Rodriguez, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct transcription of the voice-writing method of the proceedings herein, reported by me at the time and place hereinabove stated and thereafter transcribed under my supervision to the best of my ability and understanding.

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Stephanie Lacoste Rodriguez, CCR
Certified Court Reporter
Louisiana License #24035